

educational sector is concerned, a legislation for reservation for the weaker sections including Other Backward Classes for admission in Centrally aided/maintained/established higher educational institutions is before Parliament for consideration.

Scholarships for minority students

2802. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has formulated a scheme of merit-cum-means based scholarship for students belonging to minority communities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of scholarships granted under the scheme so far, community-wise;
- (d) whether Government propose to increase the number of scholarships; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) Scheme of merit-cum-means based scholarship for students belonging to minority communities formulated by this Ministry is in the process. However, the scholarship is for professional and technical courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels;

- (c) to (e) In view of the above to (a) and (b) the question does no arise.

Corpus of Maulana Azad Educational Foundation

2803. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to increase the corpus of the Maulana Azad Educational Foundation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Maulana Azad Educational Foundation is providing financial assistance to all the States equally; and

(d) if so, the grants/funds made available to Assam under Maulana Azad Educational Foundation during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The Government of India has decided to enhance the corpus fund of Maulana Azad Education Foundation from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 200 crores.

(c) The Foundation sanctions grants-in-aid to eligible non-Governmental organizations/local bodies throughout the country based upon the receipt of giving separate requisite applications.

(d) The Maulana Azad Education Foundation has sanctioned grants-in-aid of Rs. 70,00,000/- to three non-Governmental organizations during the last five years in Assam. Besides, the foundation sanctioned 214 scholarships of Rs. 10,000/- each to meritorious girl students in Assam during the years 2003-04 to 2005-06.

Investment proposals for Non-Conventional energy sources

2804. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has received investment proposals of Rs. 10,000 crore from the US and Germany to manufacture devices and systems for harnessing non-conventional energy resources under the proposed Special Economic Zones (SEZs) policy;

(b) whether Government have finalized the locations for setting up of SEZs for the 10,000 crore investment proposal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, a non-banking financial company under the administrative control of the Ministry of new and Renewable Energy, is envisaging formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle for setting up, maintaining and running of a Special Economic Zone for renewable energy products.